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CITY OF TRURO

Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health:

✓ E. WHITMAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

AND

Sanitary Inspector:

H. C. LISTER, M.S.I.A.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1952

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1952

THE MAYOR OF TRURO (Councillor R. J. WILLIAMS)

Chairman: Councillor R. J. Williams.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. H. Clarke.

Aldermen:

A. A. Behenna; W. H. Cornish.

Councillors:

H. J. P. Teague, R. G. Jordan, A. Phillips, F. Richards,
F. J. Arthur, W. Allen, T. W. R. Christophers, Mrs. D. Wilson.


STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Medical Officer of Health:

V. E. WHITMAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

H. C. LISTER, M.S.I.A.



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CITY OF TRURO

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Wilson and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the City of Truro during 1952.

On the whole the year was a healthy and uneventful one. There was a very sharp epidemic of measles in the final quarter, but the majority of cases were mild and there were few complications. Truro had been almost completely free of measles for four years so it was not surprising that when the inevitable epidemic came the number of children infected was abnormally large.

As stated in the body of the report the death rate and the infant mortality rate were both higher than should have been the case. There is room here for considerable improvement.

Attention is invited to Mr. Lister's contribution to the report. It was particularly unfortunate that owing to the pressure of other work the housing survey made little progress. Of the 2,000 houses which should be inspected Mr. Lister has found time for only 460 in four years. The information already obtained from the survey to my mind provides sufficient evidence of the importance of the work.

Once again I should like to express my appreciation of the help and consideration I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and my thanks to Mr. Lister for his loyal co-operation.

I have the honour to be

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Wilson and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. WHITMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of City (acres) ...	...	...	...	...	2,450
Population (mid 1952) ...	...	...	...	...	13,230
Number of inhabited houses ...	...	...	...	...	3,645
Rateable value ...	...	...	...	...	£89,081
Product of penny rate ...	...	...	...	...	£352
Number of houses built, or under construction since 1945					376
Number of families on waiting list for houses ...				...	643

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Males 98	Females 95	Total 193
Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor" ...		1.01
Birth rate, per 1,000 population—Truro ...	...	14.7
Birth rate, per 1,000 population—England and Wales		15.3

Still Births

Males 4	Females 6	Total 10
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births—Truro ...	...	49.3
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births—England and Wales		22.6

Deaths

Males 83	Females 95	Total 178
Registrar General's "Area Comparability Factor" ...		1.01
Death rate, per 1,000 population—Truro ...	...	13.6
Death rate, per 1,000 population—England and Wales		11.3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

Males 7	Females 3	Total 10
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births—Truro ...		51.8
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births—England and Wales	27.6

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks

Males 7	Females 2	Total 9
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ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

					1951	1952
Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	6
Tuberculosis, other	—	1
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	6	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	7	16
Leukaemia and aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	23	25
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	19	17
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	7	4
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	26	28
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	3	6
Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	24	32
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	—	3
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	7	5
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
					162	178

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

					M	F	Total
0+	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
1—4	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
5—14	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
15—24	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
25—44	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
45—64	...	...	...	...	18	23	41
65—74	...	...	...	...	23	15	38
75+	...	...	...	...	29	49	78
					—	—	—
					83	95	178
					—	—	—

65.2% of the deaths were of persons over 65 years of age.

The vital statistics are not very satisfactory. The death rate rose from 11.3 in 1951 to 13.6 in 1952 whereas for the whole country the rate fell from 12.5 to 11.3. The increase in the number of deaths was due almost entirely to nine more deaths from malignant disease (cancer) and four additional infant deaths. About malignant disease there is little anyone can do at present, but most of the 10 infant deaths and the nine still births could, in my opinion, have been avoided. Five of the deaths and three of the still births were directly attributable to maternal toxæmia a condition which could and should be detected and dealt with in its early stages. Four of the still births were due to birth injuries attributable in three cases to oversize foetuses, two of the infant deaths were due to pneumonia and one to marasmus. In an ideal society none of these children would have been lost.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

1. Clinics

Child Welfare. Premises in St. George's Road were obtained and adapted for clinic purposes towards the end of the year. They are not ideal, but are a great advance on anything we have previously had in Truro. The average attendance at clinics was just under 22 which is a slight improvement on 1951. The staff situation remained unsatisfactory.

Dental. A Dental Officer was stationed in Truro during the year and a satisfactory reduction was made in the arrears of routine inspections and treatment of school children.

			Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Pre-school Children	School Children
Inspected	...	...	25	49	2,261
Requiring treatment	...	...	24	48	1,474
Persons treated	...	...	27	48	779
Attendances	...	...	143	105	1,908
Made dentally fit	...	...	21	36	407

2. Ambulance Service

	1950	1951	1952
Ambulances	5	6	6
Utilecons	3	4	4
Patients carried, ambulances ...	4,221	4,565	4,341
Patients carried, utilecons ...	8,682	9,599	10,475
Patients carried, Hospital Car Service	2,910	1,723	1,642
Miles travelled, ambulances ...	66,698	70,901	61,069
Miles travelled, utilecons ...	81,685	94,314	103,430
Miles travelled, Hospital Car Service	85,594	48,555	35,487

3. Home Help Service

The establishment of Home Helps was seven. Help was given in their own homes to 30 maternity and 50 other cases during the year.

4. After-Care Grants

Free grants of extra nourishment were made to 16 tubercular patients on the recommendation of the Chest Physician.

5. Laboratory Facilities

The Truro Public Health Laboratory examined and reported on 36 samples of ice-cream and 67 samples of water during the year.

6. Water Supply

The programme of work embarked upon in 1949 was finally completed in 1952. Conditions at the Water Works are now quite satisfactory. There are, however, two major criticisms I must make of the supply system. One is that the major part of the water supplied to the city comes direct from the works whereas in my opinion it should be pumped first to the service reservoir from which the supply to the city would be by gravity. By this means a much longer period would elapse between chlorination and consumption, the water would be safer and there would be less taste. The difficulty is that the reservoir is not quite high enough to give adequate pressure in all the mains and boosters would need to be installed, but I think this would be well worth while especially as the pressure at present is none too good in some parts. My other criticism is much more fundamental. The water for the supply is taken from two streams and if these were to fail the city would be without water. We were within sight of a failure in 1949 and there is no reason why such conditions should not recur. The need is for a dam and adequate storage. In addition to ensuring against a drought, water from such a reservoir would be easier to deal with at the water works and would be safer to drink.

7. Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

Miss Margaret Gray, Assistant County Nursing Officer, reports:—
“Owing to staffing difficulties the health visiting of children in their own homes fell off sadly during the year.

The Nursing staff devoted a considerable part of their time to visiting the aged and frail in their homes. Such visits even if there is little actual nursing to be done fill a very real need. It is important both on the grounds of humanity and economics to keep these people in their own homes as long as possible. A little help from time to time can stave off senile deterioration which all too often ends in mental breakdown. It is suggested that this presents a fruitful field for voluntary activities. The British Red Cross and W.V.S. Societies are very helpful in this work, but there is plenty of room for other workers both organised and individually.

The midwifery service is now better adjusted and the mothers have expressed their appreciation of the joint ante-natal sessions in which the local practitioners have co-operated with the staff.

All the midwives in Truro have the Gas and Air certificates and those whom the doctors have passed as fit subjects have the opportunity of this relief."

General cases nursed	...	...	...	363
General nursing visits	...	...	...	5,212
Midwifery cases	...	...	...	106
Midwifery visits	...	...	...	2,730
Ante natal visits	...	...	...	985
Health visits to children under 5 years				2,709
Visits to elderly people	...	...	...	1,346

8. Problem Families

In 1950 in a joint circular the Home Office and the Ministries of Health and Education gave consideration to "what more might be done to prevent the neglect or ill-treatment of children in their own homes."

As a result of the circular, committees were set up in each Health Area in Cornwall. In this Area it consisted of local representatives of the Children's Department, the N.S.P.C.C., the Social and Moral Welfare Association, the Education Department, the British Red Cross Society, the National Assistance Board, the Falmouth and Truro Councils of Churches, the Assistant School Medical Officer and myself.

Five Meetings were held in 1952, but it was soon apparent that though between us we were aware of many problems the committee had power only to discuss and discussion led nowhere. We were all agreed that actual cases of wilful neglect and/or persistent cruelty were uncommon, but that there was a number of borderline cases for whom something could be done if we had power to rehouse and help financially. In other cases courses of rehabilitation would almost certainly help, but here again we were powerless. Not unnaturally the discovery of our ineffectiveness led to an evaporation of enthusiasm and attendance at the meetings fell away.

The problems remain, however, and efforts to help the families concerned give my staff a great deal of work. The voluntary organisations named are always willing to co-operate and we never hesitate to call upon them. Though our gains are little better than microscopic I feel quite certain that under existing circumstances the committee could have done no more.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Age Group		Scarlet Fever		Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	...	—	—	—	—	3	—
1— 2	...	—	—	—	—	23	33
3— 4	...	1	—	—	—	41	42
5— 9	...	3	1	1	—	104	97
10—14	...	—	—	—	—	3	6
15—24	...	—	—	1	—	1	1
25+	...	—	—	—	—	3	—
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
		4	1	2	—	178	179
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Totals		5		2		357	

Age Group	Dysentery		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning		Induced Malaria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	9	—	1	—
15—44	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—64	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	—
65+	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	—	2	1	3	11	—	1	—
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Totals	2		4		11		1	

Of the two cases of poliomyelitis the first was an adolescent male. The infection was mild and the single limb to which paralysis was confined recovered almost completely.

The second case was an eight year old child who developed bulbar paralysis and died within two days. There was a very tenuous connection between the two cases, but it seems probable

they were infected from different sources. More interesting is the fact that a few days prior to his sickness this child had fallen into the “Leats” as had two children who died of the disease in 1948.

The food poisoning originated at a private residential school and the only case outside the school was a younger brother of a day pupil. The source of the infection was never discovered, but the measures taken proved effective in that there was no spread of the disease.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

170 children under 5 and six children between the ages of 5 and 14 were immunised. 116 booster doses were given.

It was estimated that on 31st December, 1952, there were 711 children in Truro between the ages of 1 and 5 years. Of these, 394, or 55.4%, had been protected against Diphtheria by immunisation. This figure is still below the safety level of 70—75%, but is an improvement on 1951 when it was only 37.3%.

Vaccination against Smallpox

	Under 1	1+	2—4	5—14	15+	Total
Number vaccinated	15	65	28	8	45	161
Number revaccinated	—	—	3	4	48	55

Tuberculosis

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
5—14	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—44	2	10	—	1	1	3	—	—
45—64	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	2	11	2	2	3	3	—	1
Totals	13		4		6		1	

The number of tubercular patients on the register at 31st December, 1952, was 77 respiratory and 14 non-respiratory, making a total of 91 cases. This gives an incidence of 6.9 known cases per 1,000 population.

At the end of 1952, 36 children had received B.C.G. vaccination. All were contacts of known cases of tuberculosis.

CITY SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1952

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

~~MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,~~
~~Madame and Gentlemen,~~

I beg to submit my report for 1952 as follows:—

Housing

Work on the Housing Survey was seriously curtailed during 1952, and the table below indicates to what extent. As previously, the figures in brackets indicate the overall total to date.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS

1	2	3	4	5	6
Total No. of Houses	Houses sharing W.C. accommodation	W.C.'s having no flush	W.C.'s having old & obsolete cased-in hopper basins	Houses without sinks	Water supply from tap in yard
52(460)	18(114)	0(63)	6(127)	40(298)	25(239)

FUTURE PROGRAMME

7	8	9
Houses ripe for demolition as soon as conditions permit	Houses requiring of conversion and probable works reconditioning	Back to back (included in columns 7 or 8)
13(121)	16(59)	2(42)

Action Under Section 11

Eight reports were submitted in respect of houses which were unfit for human habitation and were not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered so fit. As a result notices were served under the above Section, and the City Council accepted undertakings from the owners concerned that the houses should not be used for human habitation until the Council were satisfied that the houses had been rendered fit and until the Council had cancelled the Undertakings. During the year reconstruction work had been carried out to three premises in respect of which undertakings had been accepted during 1949 and 1951. The Council were satisfied that the works carried out rendered the premises fit and the undertakings were cancelled.

Action Under Section 10

In one instance an owner of four houses defaulted in respect of a formal notice served under Section 9. The Council entered the premises under the above Section and executed the work on this default on the part of the person having the control of the house.

Houses Vested in Charities

Attention was drawn to the conditions prevailing in the case of houses provided for aged persons by two local charities. There is a real dearth of accommodation suitable for aged persons, and any action which would result in the closing of these houses at the present time should be avoided. It would appear that the charities are unable to meet their full responsibilities on financial grounds and ways and means will have to be carefully considered whereby the old people can have provided some of the accepted amenities. A tentative approach was made by the City Council to the appropriate Ministry relative to the possible acquisition of the houses vested in one of the charities, but without success. No machinery exists whereby this can be done. This presents a difficult problem, and many other authorities must find themselves in the same situation.

Inspection of the District

The following Visits and Inspections have been made:—

1. Public Health Act, 1936

(a) Housing	...	...	...	...	...	174
(b) Drainage (including nuisances from overflowing cesspools)	...	...	...	...	...	154
(c) Sanitary Accommodation (including Schools)	...					33
(d) Water Supply (including the collection of Samples)						65
(e) Water Courses	...	...	...	...		6
(f) Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...		15
(g) Accumulations	...	...	...	...		7
(h) Infestations (Dirty or verminous premises)	...					21
(i) Other infestations	...	...	...	...		11
(j) Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...		25
(k) Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	5
(l) Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	22
(m) Public Health Miscellaneous	...		...	...	...	73

2. Milk and Dairies Regulations

...	30
-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. Housing Act

(a) Rehousing	...	...	...	...	...	242
(b) Inspections (including survey in progress)	...					175

4. Food and Drugs Act

(a) Food, including Condemnations	...	...	128
(b) Premises	...	...	26
(c) Ice-cream Sampling and Inspections	...	...	45
(d) Meat	...	...	10
5. Factories Act	...	...	6
6. Shops Act	...	...	19
7. Rodent Control	...	...	99
8. Miscellaneous (including Hackney Carriages)	...	...	77
Total			1,468

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Informal Action

Owners Notified					Work Completed				
Sec. 39	Sec. 44	Sec. 45	Sec. 93 (Housing)	Sec. 93 (General)	Sec. 39	Sec. 44	Sec. 45	Sec. 93 (Housing)	Sec. 93 (General)
19	6	4	53	8	11	4	1	21	5

Formal Action

Sec. 39	Sec. 44	Sec. 45	Sec. 93	Sec. 93	Sec. 39	Sec. 44	Sec. 45	Sec. 93	Sec. 93
5	—	3	17	1	4	—	3	10	1

In addition to the above, action was taken under Section 83 in respect of three dirty and verminous premises. In two cases the improvement was such that it was unnecessary to resort to formal action, but in the case of the third the necessary formal notice was served, and the Council entered in default on the part of the occupier executing the necessary work and destroying infested and dirty bedding. New bedding was provided with the aid of the National Assistance Board.

So far as flea infestations were concerned (and in the three cases they were heavy) one responded to treatment and the other two were brought well under control. These latter two are being subjected to periodical treatment.

One interesting feature is the increasing number of cases of Ants' and Wasps' nests which are being brought to the Council's notice and on which advice and help is sought. In the case of infestation by Ants a suitable insecticidal powder is issued and in persistent cases help is afforded. Wasps' nests are destroyed on behalf of the occupier concerned.

During the year two School Canteens were treated to overcome considerable infestation by flies. Advice was given on preventive and control measures. A Lindane-Pyrethrum Miscible concentrate was used and this proved most effective and proved to possess a very definite residual action.

One owner defaulted under a formal notice served under Section 39 requiring the repair of guttering. The City Council entered the premises and themselves executed the work.

Moveable Dwellings

With the closing of the Moorfield one licensed Camping Site only remains. This is a well managed site and provided with the necessary amenities. Its disadvantages lie in its distance from schools and the City centre. So long as the housing shortage is such to force people to seek this type of home there appears a real need for a well managed site in a more convenient situation. A few applicants have been granted licences in respect of the use of Moveable Dwellings, and these too are situated on the perimeter of the district. Two at Coosebean have drawn off whilst three remain on Union Hill and one at St. Clement. Action became necessary in respect of one dilapidated moveable dwelling which was ultimately sold by the owner and traced to a holiday camp outside the district where it was to be reconditioned and let for holiday purposes.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the following was condemned:—

25 lbs. Hindquarter Trimmings	...	Bruised
9 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Kidney Nob	...	Degeneration
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Pig's Head	...	Abcess

Meat Depot

Complaint was received during the year with regard to the rat infestation of the Depot; the unsatisfactory handling of the Meat; and the unsatisfactory nature of the buildings. Two minor rat infestations were dealt with and cleared before the rats had time to establish themselves. No evidence of the unsatisfactory handling of meat was noted, and so far as the building is concerned this is certainly badly in need of repair. Your Public Health Committee together with your Public Works Committee has looked into this question and the Surveyor has been asked to report thereon.

Other Food

1038 Tins Preserves	1 Pkt. Marzipan
29 Tins Soup	1 Table Jelly
319 Tins Meat	1 Pkt. French Cream Slices
106 Tins Milk	30 lbs. Dried Apricots
253 Tins Vegetables	8 Bottles Rennett
71 Tins Fish	7 Harris' Pork Pies
1 Jar Pickled Onions	12 lbs. Layer Cake
45 lbs. Self-Raising Flour	4 lbs. Guernsey Tomatoes
1 Tin Golden Syrup	4 Chocolate Rolls

1 Pkt. Corn Flakes	1 Madiera Cake
15 lbs. Chocolates	4 Swiss Rolls
1 Jar Horseradish Relish	7 lbs. Puff Pastry
2 lbs. Jacobs' Crackers	7 lbs. Sandwich Cake
4 lbs. Hogs Pudding	3 Chickens (Tinned)
1 Pkt. Desiccated Coconut	7 Portions Camembere Cheese
1 Pkt. Corn Flakes	75 lbs. Figs
152 lbs. New Potatoes	1 Pkt. Roselle Cream
1 Jar Sandwich Spread	3 Pkts. Viota Cake Mixture
1 Jar Relish	1 Sponge Sandwich
8 lbs. Lentils	1 Box Cream Cheese
1 Jar Sanchova Paste	1 Jar Stuffed Olives
8 lbs. Exeter Beef	3 Tins Pineapple Jelly
14 Boxes Cheese	27 lbs. Tea
3 Fruit Puddings	7 Doz. Handy Snack Packs
1 Bottle Coffee Essence	6 Stone Mackerel
$\frac{1}{2}$ Box Green Grapes	1 Bottle Ketchup
3 x 5 lb. Tins Stewed Steak	1 Jar Meat Paste
4 x 4 lb. Tins Veal & Ham Loaf	1 Box Cheese Spread
80 x 5 Kilo Tins Apricot Pulp	162 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Jellied Veal
33 lbs. Cheese	69 lbs. Sausages
112 lbs. Luncheon Meat	4 lbs. Brawn
714 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Cooked Ham	

Ham

The great reduction in the quantity of Ham condemned is particularly noteworthy. The Ministry's intervention in the matter appears to have been successful.

Milk

One sample of pasteurised milk, one sample of Tuberculin Tested milk and three samples of ordinary Raw Milk were taken and all satisfied the respective tests.

PREMISES

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 13)

Informal action was taken in the case of two food establishments. One case involved a restaurant, snack bar and confectioners combined, and as a result practically the whole of the establishment was redecorated throughout. The other case involved a Grocery and Provision Store—the warehouse in particular being in a deplorable condition. Complete reconstruction of at least part of the premises is indicated and the Management put forward a scheme which the Ministry of Works were not prepared to sanction. Protracted correspondence between the Management, the City Council and the Ministry of Works ensued. It is to be hoped that a modified scheme which will meet the requirements of this Authority will be approved by the Ministry concerned and implemented by the Management without delay.

Ice-cream

Thirty-eight samples of Ice-cream were taken during the year, and the result can be regarded as so satisfactory as to call for no comment:—

Grade 1	...	33
Grade 2	...	5
		—
		38
		—

Milk and Dairies

A few Milk Retailers were still delivering milk by the old hand-can method and this is permissible by law. This method, however, indicates that at some stage of the round these hand-cans are replenished with milk from the churn on the round and in the street, which is an offence, although for obvious reasons, it is very often difficult to trace a roundsman in the act. Accordingly the support of the local Dairymen's Association was sought in the matter, and a meeting of dairymen held under the auspices of the local Association was addressed by the Medical Officer of Health and by me. We left feeling that we had the support of the Association behind us, and a date in October was fixed as the operative "date." Retailers previously relying mainly on the hand-can method came over to bottled supplies, and the old method is on the way out.

Water Supply

Sixty-seven samples of water were taken from the public supply, from private houses and schools. Of these, 62 were satisfactory, whilst the coliform count was high in the remaining five. No faecal coli were found in any of the samples. The five unsatisfactory samples were all taken from the Green Close Estate, and check samples taken from the main from adjacent properties were satisfactory. At the time the Green Close Estate was built the pressure was very low on this elevated site and as a consequence a storage tank was fitted to each house from which the entire supply for all purposes is obtained. As the main supply was not at fault, quite obviously the condition of these tanks was at fault. Accordingly the owner (in this case a Housing Society) was approached in the matter with a view to the supply being obtained direct from the main. By the end of the year an order had been given to a local plumber for the work to be carried out. Altogether from a public supply point of view the position can be regarded as very satisfactory.

DRAINAGE

The call on the services of the City Council's Cesspool Emptier was particularly heavy during the year, but a reasonably prompt service was maintained. Those properties in respect of which owners have placed orders for regular and routine attention have been attended to at the appropriate time, and the work generally, although heavy, has never been seriously in arrears. Nuisance has

been kept down to a minimum. 650 cesspools were emptied of which 191 were in the Hillcrest-Sunningdale area, and this once again revealed an overall increase on the previous year—an increase of 114. During the year the City Council decided to carry out the Hillcrest and Sunningdale Sewer extensions by Contract, and tenders for the work were sought. Obviously the demand on the services of the cesspool emptier will not be so heavy once these extensions are completed, but as indicated in earlier reports the work will not be lessened to the degree at one time thought.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections

Premises	M/c No. on		Inspec- tions	Number of		M/c
	No.	Regis- ters		Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted	line No.
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	28	—	—	—	—
2. Factories not included in 1 in which 7 is enforced by Local Authorities ...	2	87	6	1	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	3	1	—	—	—	—
Total ...		116	6	1	—	—

2. Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were				No. of Prosecu- tions
		Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...		1	1	—	—	—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Type of Property Agri- cultural	Property All other (including Business & Industrial)	TOTAL
1. Total number of prop- erties in L. A. District	25	3984	26	822	4857
2. Number of properties in- spected during 1952 as a result of					
(a) notification or (a)	—	12	2	3	17
(b) otherwise (b)	25	470	5	28	528
3. Number of properties (under 11) found to be infested by rats					
Major	1	—	1	—	2
Minor	9	30	4	10	53
4. Number of properties (under 11) found to be seriously infested by mice	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of infested prop- erties (under 3 and 4) treated by Local Authority	10	30	5	9	54
6. Number of notices served under Section 4					
(1) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority follow- ing issue of notice under Section 4 ...	...	—	—	—	—
8. Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of “block” control schemes carried out ...	4				

One block control operation was exceptionally successful, and some 40 carcasses were recovered at the heart of the infestation. In this case a Warfarin bait was used. In a few days this type of bait produces internal haemorrhage and death. No external signs of haemorrhage was found in any carcasses recovered. The use of this comparatively new bait proved most effective in all instances.

Shops Act, 1950

As indicated in last year's Annual Report quite an amount of confusion exists so far as the weekly half holiday is concerned. The matter was referred to during a meeting of your Public Health Committee. As a result I was instructed to proceed with the necessary formalities and work was commenced on the compilation of the necessary register with a view to fixing the day with regard to both exempted and unexempted trades. Whatever day may be fixed as a result, the Shopkeeper must be given the option to choose Saturday as his half-day closing.

